The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Monday March 8. to Thursday March 11. 1702.

Florence, February 10. *N. S.*

A *Dutch* Privateer has brought into *Leghorne* a *French* Prize valued at 50000 Dollars; as also a Bark belonging to *Tunis*, which was bound to *Scanderoone*, with about 60 Slaves on Board. The same Privateer has lately taken 4 *French* Vessels laden with Corn on the Coast of *Sicily*.

Rome, February 17. We have not had any Returns of the late Earthquake since that of the 2d Instant, which has done so much Damage to several Palaces and other Buildings of this City, and so much weakened them, that another shock would quite overturn them. The Palace of the *Vatican* has not escaped, a part of it being much shaken; yet the Pope could not be prevailed with to remove from thence, fearing it might encreate the Consternation of the People, which is already but too great, and he has only changed his Apartment for one that seems to stand more firmly. On the 3d divers Persons went about the City, in the middle of the night, knocking at People's Doors, and telling them they were sent by the Pope to give them warning of another Earthquake, which would happen within half an hour, and would be much more terrible than that which they had felt the day before; This dreadful Message, backed with the Pope's Authority, put the People under so great Apprehensions, that they left their Houses, and retired into the Fields or other open Places, and some died with the sudden Fright, especially Women with Child. The Pope no sooner heard of this, but he sent his Officers and his Guards to assure the People, that he gave no such Orders, as was pretended, and to [illegible] them to return to their Houses; and he has directed that [illegible] be made after the Authors of this Villany, promising considerable Rewards to any that shall discover them, and a Pardon tho they are concerned in it; yet it has hitherto been impossible to make any Discovery. Some look upon this to have been done by malicious Persons, who intended it only as a Piece of Merriment but others believe it rather to be a Contrivance of the Banditti, or Robbers, who, as they suppose, thought in this Confusion to have plaid their game to good advantage, and this Opinion seems the more probable, because the same Alarm was given that very night at *Albano, Marino, Viterbo*, and several other Places several Miles distant; yet we do not hear of any Roberies committed on this occation. The Accounts we receive from several Towns of the Mischief done by the Earthquake which happened on the 2d Instant are very dismal, particularly the Town of *Norcia*, which had suffered very much by the former Earthquake, was by this quite destroyed; And at *Aquila*, the chief City of the Province of *Abruzzo*, in the Kingdom of *Naples*, besides many other Buildings, the Cathedral was thrown down, and about 1500 Persons, who were there at their Devotions were bury'd under its Ruins, among whom are reckoned the Governor and many of the principal Inhabitants. The Congregation appointed by the Pope to consider of relieving those Persons whose Houses have been destroyed by the Earthquake, and who are thereby reduced to Poverty, has ordered that all the Tents which could be found in the Magazines of this City, and of *Civita Vecchia*, should be distributed among them, and great Sums of Money, partly paid out of the Pope's Treasury, and partly given by divers charitable Persons, are also ordered to be laid out in providing them with other necessaries. The Pope has disposed of the Archbishoprick of *Naples* to Signior *Pignatelli*, his Nuncio in *Poland*, who is said to owe this Preferment to the Interest made for him by the House of *Austria*.

Venice, Febr. 23. The Senate has resolved to make an Election of Three new Procurators of St. *Mark*, upon their paying 25000 Ducats apiece into the Publick Treasury. Signior *Justiniani*, Ambassador from this State to the *Ottoman Porte*, is gone on board the Ships appointed to carry him to *Constantinople*, and waits only for a fair Wind to put to Sea. Our Letters from the *German* head Quarter at *Ostigha* give an Account, that they have made that Post very strong, and are now fortifying *Rovero*, and several other Places, which will effectually secure their Quarters on that side; That their *Hussars* do now and then make Excursions against the Enemy with good Success, but that the Ways and Weather are yet too bad for any considerable Attempt to be made on either side; however a Party of 500 Imperial Horse being sent from *Finale di Modena* to attack some *French* Forces which lay at *Buon-Porto*, fell upon them with such Resolution, that they either killed or took them all Prisoners, and possessed themselves of that Post. The *French* are preparing to take the Field as soon as the Season permits; and it is said they are getting ready a Train of Artillery at *Cremona*, in order to lay a formal Siege to *Bersello*.

Copenhagen, March 3. On the 28th past the King of *Denmark* conferred the Order of the Elephant upon the Duke of *Mecklembourg*, who the next day took his leave of His Majesty, and left this Place yesterday, in order to go to *Rostock*, where he intends to reside for the future. It is said, that before his Departure he concluded a Treaty with this Court for advancing the Trade of that City, which was once in flourishing Condition. On the 20th past a Fleet of about 40 *Dutch* Merchant Ships, under Convoy of 3 Men of War, having wintered here, sailed out of the *Sound*, in order to their Return home.

Paris, March 5. The Court returned the 24th past from Marli to Versailles; The 27th Signior Aluisio Pisani, Ambassador from the Republick of Venice, had Audience of Leave, and he is preparing for his departure home. The 28th the Marshal of Harcourt took his Post as Captain of the French King's Life-Guards. The Sieur de Chateauneuf, who has resided at the Ottoman Porte in the Quality of Ambassador from this Crown, is appointed to go with the same Character to the Court of Portugal, in the room of the President Rouille, who is recalled. The Marshal de Boufflers came to this Court the 27th past from Brussels, to give the King an Account of the Posture of Affairs in the Spanish Netherlands, and to receive further Instructions: On the first Instant he waited upon the King to a Review of the French Regiment of Foot-Guards, whereof this Marshal is Colonel; To morrow there is to be another Review of the French and Swiss Guards, and then a Draught will be made out of them to serve in Flanders and Germany this Summer, who will begin their March on the 10th Instant. The other Troops of the King's Houshold will be reviewed on the 12th, and the Detachments of these Troops which are to make the Campaign will begin to march the 14th. Our Forces in Germany have taken the Field so soon, that the Officers, especially those of the Cavalry, had not time to recruit their Regiments, and to provide themselves with Necessaries; so that they are likely to suffer very much. Letters from Strasbourg say, our Forces before Kehl have carried forward their Approaches within 50 Paces of the Hornwerk; yet several Officers, who have a perfect knowledge of that Place, are of Opinion that it will not be taken so easily as is generally believed here: Monsieur Lapara is going to that Siege, to serve as chief Engineer. In the mean time the Elector of Bavaria's Envoy is daily representing to this Court the Danger his Master is in of being attacked on several sides by the Emperor and his Allies; and presses very much that some way may be found out of assisting him speedily with Forces, which seems impracticable, the Imperialists having secured all the Passes by which a Junction with his Troops might be attempted. The Marshal de Montrevel, who commands the Forces which are sent to suppress the Malecontents in the Sevennes, arrived in those Parts about the 20th past. It appears by the Accounts he has sent up to Court, that this Insurrection is of much greater Consequence than was thought, and he has desired that more Forces might be sent him; whereupon 6 Battalions of Foot more are ordered thither. The Country thereabouts is in a great measure ruined, Monsieur St. Julien, who had the chief Command there before the Marshal de Montrevell's Arrival, having burnt and ravaged all the Places which held any Correspondence with the Malecontents.